

Meeting the Special Needs of All Students

By Jennifer Lockett, GLOBE Trainer, Alabama

With a Masters Degree in Special Education and with a special needs child of my own, I became interested in using GLOBE with special needs students soon after attending my first GLOBE Teacher Training Workshop in 1998. In an inclusive classroom of students with a broad range of abilities and learning styles, educators must find programs that offer integrated curricula, interdisciplinary teaching, multi-cultural curricula, and life-centered curricula. GLOBE provides each of these critical elements!

Some 65 percent of the diagnosed special needs students in the United States are in the regular classroom for all or most the day. GLOBE can help these students achieve success in the classroom, maybe for the first time. With GLOBE, my special students do not have to settle for watered-down curriculum or untested programs. It takes planning and a conscious effort to include these students in GLOBE activities, but I believe teachers will find, like I have, that they do not need to make more than minor adaptations to the GLOBE activities for the program to work successfully with their entire classroom.

We all have had the student who spends much of the day in classes for disruptive behavior. Harmless clowning around develops into more serious behaviors that in turn lead to a diagnosis of a behavior disorder. Often test results will show difficulty with audio and visual processing. I believe GLOBE can help these students feel part of something bigger and something important, and provide them an opportunity to take some personal responsibility.

Educators are also in search of ways to reach students with learning disabilities or those diagnosed with attention deficit disorders. School is a struggle for these young people, even with an above-average ability to learn. They need immediate feedback and meaningful results. The regular teaching styles of the past years do not accommodate these special needs. This is another instance where the hands-on nature of GLOBE can help.

Reflecting on my work with special needs students, I realize that *all* of our young people are "special needs" students. In order for our children to succeed in life, each and everyone one of them has emotional, physical, and academic needs that must be met. Through GLOBE, students can see a bigger picture than what's in their own backyard and can realize their individual responsibilities as a part of humankind. By being members of a team with scientists and other students, GLOBE students learn life lessons such as cooperative learning and productive thinking.

I truly believe that, by its design, the GLOBE Program helps address both the educational concepts and the life values that *all* of our young people need to learn. By being members of a team with scientists and other students, GLOBE students learn life lessons such as cooperative learning and productive thinking.

I am thankful to all I have met in this journey and to the GLOBE Program for being the vehicle that I was able to embrace in teaching my students, including those with special needs.

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